

By donating \$325,000 worth of airtime to Republican candidates, Pappas Telecasting Company is abusing its privileged access to the public airwaves.

Democracy is not served when a licensed telecasting company provides one side a louder voice during an election campaign than it provides to other candidates. Democracy demands that audiences are offered genuine debate from each side.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' declaration that the other side "purchase" an equal amount of response time violates this obligation.

By undermining democracy in this way and not serving the public interest, Pappas' action is legally questionable.

Pappas action is yet another illustration of why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. It is also another example of why the FCC needs to strengthen the license renewal process. Thank you.